

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Chicago, Ill.

July 29, 1943

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

PHILATELIC DATA ON  
1943-44 DUCK STAMP

-----  
NOTE: A photograph of the artist's design is available upon request to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Public Relations Division, Chicago 54, Illinois.  
-----

In addition to being required equipment for all migratory waterfowl hunters over 16 years old, the "duck stamp", as it is familiarly known, is rapidly becoming a "must" item for thousands of philatelists all over the country.

About twice the size of a special delivery stamp, Federal migratory-bird hunting stamps, first issued in 1934, cost \$1 and may be purchased singly or in complete sheets of 28 stamps. The 1943-44 issue was placed on sale at all first and second-class post offices on July 1.

The following philatelic data is supplied for the benefit of collectors: Color: Indian Red. Origin of material: Photograph of an etching by Walter E. Bohl, furnished by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. Designers: Central design by Walter E. Bohl; frame and lettering by Victor S. McCloskey, Jr. Engravers: Vignette by Charles A. Brooks. Outline frame, lettering and numeral by John S. Edmondson. The plates of 112 subjects each are numbered 152826 and 152827.

The artist, Walter E. Bohl, according to a short biographical sketch submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service, was born in Columbus, Wis., in 1907, and as a boy derived particular enjoyment from drawing pictures of birds and animals. While convalescing from a swimming accident in 1930, he turned to drawing game birds and hunting dogs as a pastime. An art department buyer in one of Chicago's large stores, viewing his drawings, suggested to Bohl that he use the medium of etching on copper plate.

In putting this suggestion into operation, the artist advises that he built his first press from a discarded clothes wringer while studying the art of etching from library books. In 1933 he made his first etchings of game birds, dogs and horses. A year later he married and with his wife set out, with camp equipment, to study suitable subject matter in the South and West.

Mr. Bohl's etchings first appeared in a national magazine in 1935 when Esquire published some of his work. Since then a number of magazines have featured his work, with Esquire frequently publishing both etchings and water

colors. Several of Bohl's etchings are now in a permanent collection in the National Gallery of Art at Washington, D.C.

Duck stamp sales for 1941-42 amounted to \$1,439,967. For the 9-month period from July 1, 1942 through March 31, 1943, a total of 1,319,636 stamps of the 1942-43 issue have been sold.

Ninety percent of the proceeds from the sale of the stamps are earmarked for the establishment and maintenance of Federal migratory bird refuges throughout the country. The remaining 10 percent is used for printing and distributing the stamps, administrative purposes of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, and other Federal activities for migratory bird conservation.